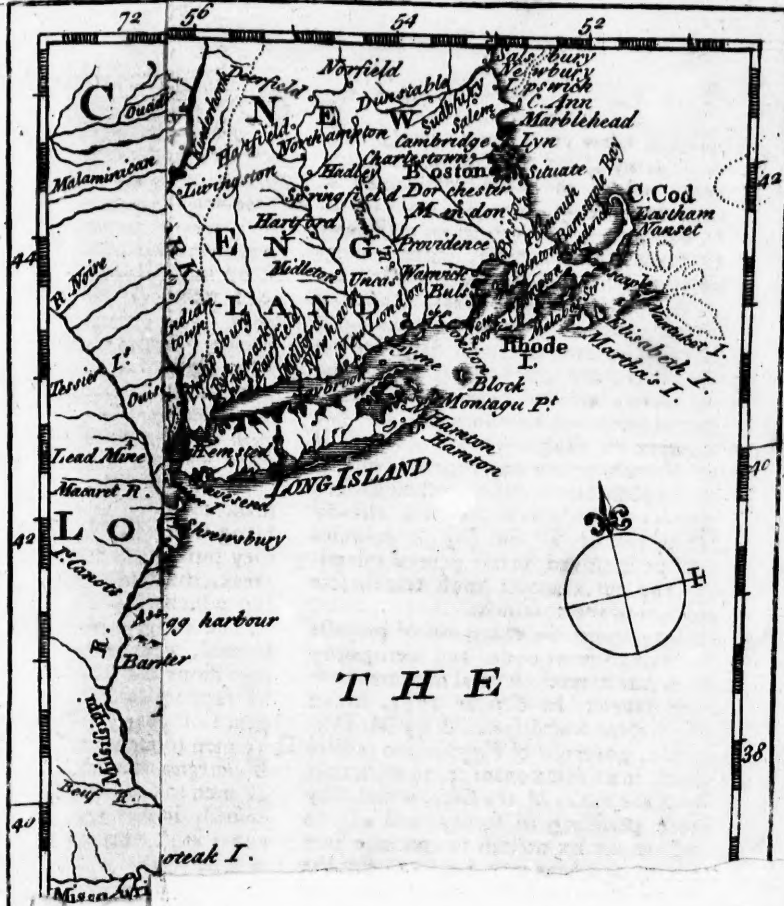




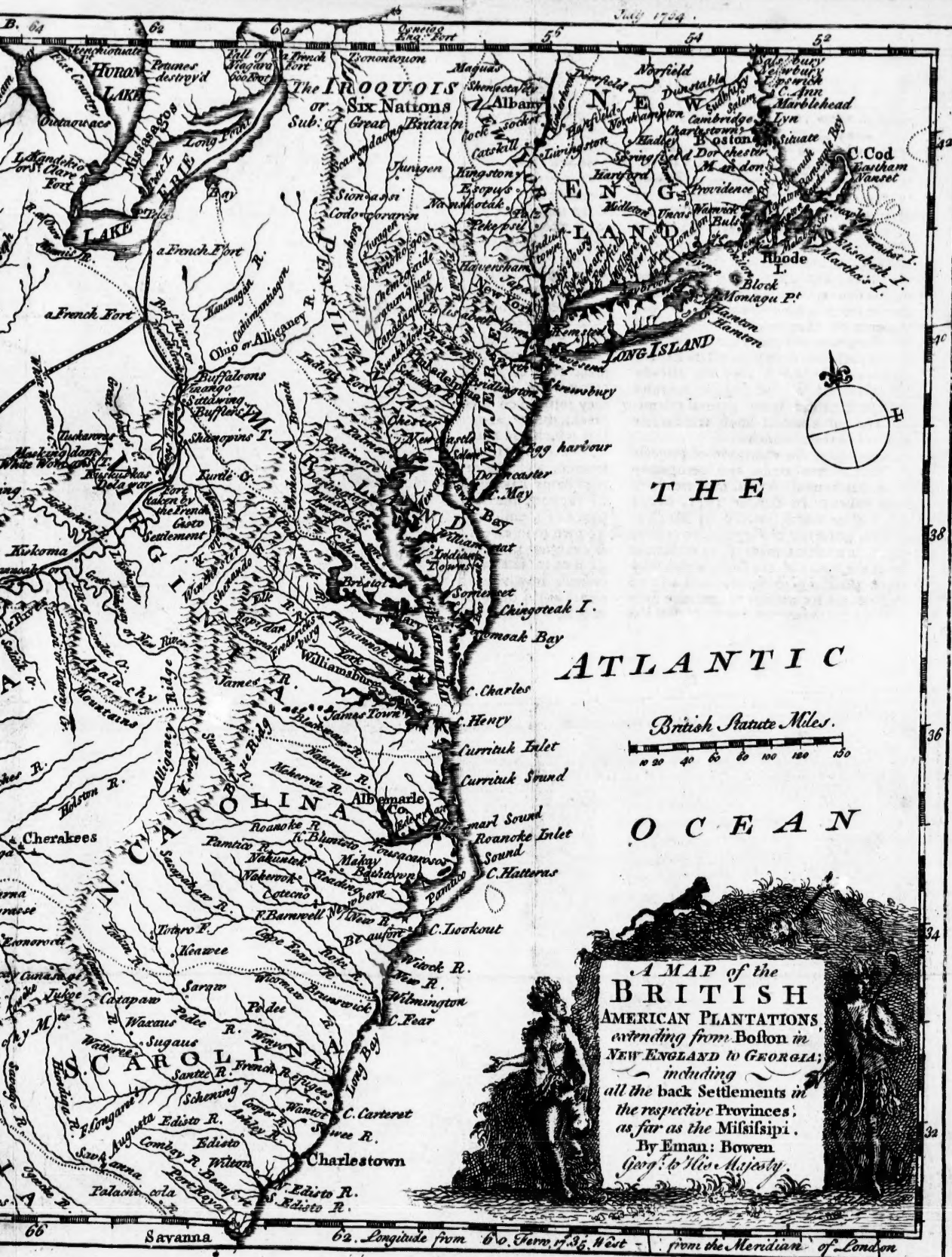
July 1754.



standing the profession of his father, is extremely illiterate, having, by whate-

remembered the text, for any part of the sermon, but it never appeared that he brought away one sentence: His mind, upon





THE
ATLANTIC
OCEAN

British Statute Miles.
0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140

A MAP of the
BRITISH
AMERICAN PLANTATIONS
extending from Boston in
NEW-ENGLAND to GEORGIA;
including
all the back Settlements in
the respective Provinces;
as far as the Mississippi.
By Eman: Bowen
Gorg: to His Majesty.

Longitude from 60. Term of 35 West - from the Meridian of London

fords the most delicious repast.

Account of a Journey from Williamsburg to the French Fort, near the Lake Erie, in Virginia.

THE French having been lately erecting forts, and making settlements upon the river *Ohio*, in the western parts of *Virginia*, which are known to be the property of *Great Britain*. Major *George Washington* was sent by Governor *Dinwiddie*, with a letter to the French commandant on that river, by which he was required to depart.

Mr *Washington* set out on the 31st of October 1753, and reached *Will's Creek* on the 14th of November; from whence he proceeded the next day with Mr *Gist*, a person whom he had engaged as a guide, a French interpreter, two Indian traders, and some other attendants and servants, with horses and proper accommodations for the journey.

At a small distance from the fork of the *Ohio*, after 27 days travel, he called upon *Skingie*, king of the *Delaware Indians*, who went with him to *Logg's town*, where he intended to assemble the chiefs of the Six Nations, in order

to engage them in his interest, and induce them to renounce all connexion with the *French*.

One of the chiefs, called the *Half King*, who had lately been a journey to the *French* commander, was absent at his hunting cabin, but a messenger being immediately dispatched to him, he came the next day. Mr *Washington* took him aside, with his *Indian* interpreter, and enquired the view of his expedition, and how he had succeeded.

The chief told him, that he remonstrated against their encroachments on a territory which belonged neither to them nor to the *English*, declaring that he would keep both at arms length, and would join in amity with that side only which withdrew into those bounds that had originally been prescribed: That he was answered by the *Frenchman* with great haughtiness, who said, that he feared not flies or musketas, and such he held the *Indians* to be; that they might expect kindness if they submitted to his will, and if not he would tread them under his feet.

On the 26th of Nov. Mr *Washington* met the chiefs in council, when they agreed that the wampum* delivered by the *French* to them should be returned, as a symbol of abolishing all agreements between them; that some of them should attend Mr *Washington*, with a sufficient guard for his defence, and some of their best hunters to furnish him with provisions during the journey.

After a delay of some days, he set out with three of the chiefs, the *Half King*, *White Thunder*, *Jeska Kake*, and one of their best hunters; it having been determined, after more mature consideration, that a greater number might alarm the *French*, and cause them to be rudely treated.

On the 4th of December they arrived at *Venango*, about 60 miles from *Logstown*, where they found the *French* colours hoisted upon a house, from which they had driven *John Fraser*, an *English* subject; to this house Mr *Washington* immediately repaired, and enquired for the commandant; he was soon introduced to three officers, one of whom, captain *Joncaire*, informed him that he had the command of *Ohio*, but that there was a general officer at the next fort, to whom it would be best to apply for an answer. This gentleman treated Mr *Washington* with great com-

plaisance, and invited him to supper: the invitation was accepted, and the wine having soon put an end to the caution of his company, they no longer concealed their designs. They told him that they determined to take possession of the *Ohio*, to which they pretended a right from a discovery made by one *la Salle* 60 years ago; that their view was to prevent the *English* from making any settlements upon it, which they knew they should accomplish, for tho' the *English* could raise two men for their one, yet their motions were too slow to prevent any undertaking of theirs.

Mr *Washington* had not introduced his *Indian* associates to these gentlemen, because *Joncaire* understood the language, and he feared they might be seduced from their purpose; however the rain that fell on the next day, having rendered it impossible to proceed to the fort, *Joncaire* heard where they had been left, and sent for them.

When they came in he received them with expressions of the utmost joy, gently upbraided them with being so near, and yet neglecting to visit him, gave each of them some trifling presents, and at length made them drunk.

It was now impossible to get them away; they said that all the affairs between their nation and the *French*, were left to Mr *Joncaire*; and with him they would transact them. Accordingly a kind of council was held, and the chiefs were present; they continued firm to their resolution, and offered *Joncaire* the wampum which they had determined to return. This however he artfully refused to receive, and desired that it might be delivered to the commandant at the fort.

To the fort however he had no mind they should go, for having eluded the act by which all treaties were vacated, he laboured by every artifice in his power to detain the chiefs, till Mr *Washington* returned from his expedition, on which he would then have been obliged to proceed alone.

But the *Indian* interpreter having received instructions to be always with them, and Mr *Gist* being sent on purpose to fetch them, they were, with much difficulty brought away, and on the 7th of December, about 11 in the forenoon, the whole company set out for the fort, which was distant about 60 miles.

This journey cost them four days, as it rained and snowed incessantly, and great

delicious repast.

Journey from Williamsburg to Fort, near the Lake Erie.

Having been lately to the river *Ohio*, in the of *Virginia*, which are the property of *Great Britain* was sent with a letter to the commandant on that river, as required to depart.

Set out on the 31st of November; from whence the next day with Mr whom he had engaged as interpreter, two *Indian* and some other attendants with horses and proper accoutrements for the journey, at a distance from the fork of the river 27 days travel; he called on the king of the *Delaware* Indians with him to Logg's intended to assemble the Six Nations, in order

great part of the way was mire and swamp: They arrived on the 11th, and on the 12th waited upon the governor, to whom Mr *Wabington* offered his commission and letter, which he was desired to keep till the arrival of M. *Ripart* from the next fort, upon whom the principal command was just devolved, upon the death of the late general.

This gentleman who is a knight of the order of St Lewis, and named *Leguardeur de St Pierre*; when he had received the letter from Mr *Washington*, immediately withdrew into a private apartment, where the captain translated it, and Mr *Washington* was then desired to bring his interpreter to peruse and correct his translation.

On the 13th a council was held to consider what answer Mr *Washington* should carry back, which however he did not receive till the evening of the next day. In the mean time he perceived that every possible art was practised upon the *Indians*, to prevent their returning with him: He therefore pressed them to execute their design without delay; upon their application they were admitted to an audience the same night, when the *Half King* offered the wampum to the commandant, but he declined to take it as *Foucaire* had done at *Venango*. He said, he desired to live at peace and trade amicably with them, as a proof of which he would immediately send some goods for them, to *Loggs Town*; he found means to keep them all the 15th, by promising them a present of guns in the morning, and labour'd hard to keep them that day also, but Mr *Washington*, urging their promise not to leave him, nor delay his journey beyond that time, they embarked with him on the 16th in a canoe, which had been well provided with liquor and provision, Mr *Washington* having sent the horses unloaded to *Venango*, as he perceived them to grow weaker and weaker every day, and the snow increased very fast.

Their passage down the creek was extremely tedious and fatiguing; they were many times very near being staved against rocks, and many times were obliged to get out and remain more than half an hour in the water to get the canoe over shoals: At one place the ice had rendered the stream unnavigable, and they were then compelled to take their canoe out of the water, and carry it over a neck of land, above a quarter of a mile: As the creek is extremely crooked, the distance by water from the fort to *Penango* is 130 miles, so that

they did not arrive there till the 22d.

As they found the horses waiting at this place, all things were got ready to pursue their journey by land, on the next day, and the *Half King* was ask'd whether he would go with them, or by water; he answered that *White Thunder* had hurt himself very much, and was unable to walk, so that he should be obliged to carry him down in a canoe. Mr *Washington* easily discovered, that he intended to stay some days at *Venango*, and knew that *Joncaille* would repeat his stratagems to let him against the *English*: He therefore admonished him to be upon his guard, and not suffer his resolution to be shaken by flattery and fair speeches. The king replied, that he knew the *French* too well to be the dupe of any artifice which they could practice, and that although he could not accompany his friend, yet he would meet him at the fort, and pronounce a speech for him to carry to the governor.

The horses were now so feeble, and the baggage so heavy, that it was doubted, whether they would be able to perform the journey. Mr *Washington*, and Mr *Gist*, therefore gave up their horses to assist in carrying the baggage, and the major having put himself into an Indian walking dress, proceeded on foot. The horses however being every day less able to travel, he found if he walked with them he should be greatly delay'd, that the cold increased very fast, and that the roads were made worse every hour, by a deep snow continually freezing; he therefore, being impatient to report his proceedings, determined to prosecute his journey the nearest way through the woods. Accordingly on the 26th he left his attendants in charge of the baggage, with money and directions to provide necessaries for themselves from place to place; and having wrapped himself in a watch coat, he set out with his gun in his hand, and a pack containing his papers and provisions, at his back, accompanied only by Mr *Gist*, who was equipped in the same manner.

The day following, just as they had pass'd a place called the *Murdering Indian*, they fell in with a party of *French Indians*, who had laid in wait for them, one of whom fired at them; but fortunately missed his mark; though he was not distant more than 15 paces. As soon as the report of the piece had put the travellers upon their guard, the *Indians* made off; except the fellow that fired,

End of his expedi.

whom they seized and
all 9 at night; when
to escape, and contin
the remaining part of
out making any stop, th
next day be out of the
knowing that they w
as soon as it was light.

The next day after travelling till it was reached the river about Shannapi, a town on expected to have found over, but the ice extended 50 yards from the shore and great quantities of ice in the middle. Therefore no way to pass, which they set about, but one hatchet between after the incessant day, they completed. Upon this raft, having duly launch'd it, they fore they got half way themselves fast among pecked every moment would be sunk under to inevitable destruction, the major put off that, if possible the ice of his raft, but the stream drove it with gainst the pole, that he quit it he was jerk'd in. He fortunately saved his hold of one of the raft to either shore, fore obliged to quit the island, and make to the island; upon this island all night, and the com were expos'd, was Giff had all his fingers of his toes; in the night the water shut up, a culty walk'd from the ice to the next settlement of January they left the 2d, arrived at M major provided him and reach'd Williams. The purport of the brought to govern that the Commanda letter to them acquiesce, he commanded and that in the mean time to keep his

Note, the reader may find a map of N. America, to several places above me

End of his expedition.—

whom they seized and kept in custody till 9 at night; when they suffered him to escape, and continued walking all the remaining part of the night, without making any stop, that they might the next day be out of the reach of pursuit, knowing that they would be tracked as soon as it was light.

The next day also they continued travelling till it was quite dark, and reached the river about two miles above *Shannapins*, a town on the fork. They expected to have found it frozen quite over, but the ice extended only about 50 yards from the shore on each side, and great quantities of ice were driving in the middle. There was therefore no way to pass it but on a raft, which they set about, though they had but one hatchet between them, and, after the incessant labour of a whole day, they completed it just at sun set. Upon this raft, having with much difficulty launch'd it, they embarked, but before they got half way over they found themselves fast among the ice, and expected every moment that the raft would be sunk under it, and leave them to inevitable destruction. In this distress, the major put out his setting pole, that, if possible the ice might pass clear of his raft, but the rapidity of the stream drove it with such violence against the pole, that being unwilling to quit it he was jerk'd into ten feet water: He fortunately saved himself by catching hold of one of the raft logs, but with all their efforts they could not get the raft to either shore, and were therefore obliged to quit it at whatever hazard, and make to a neighbouring island; upon this island they continued all night, and the cold to which they were expos'd, was so severe, that Mr *Giff* had all his fingers frozen, and some of his toes; in the morning they found the water shut up, and without difficulty walk'd from the island over the ice to the next settlement. On the 1st of *January* they left this place, and on the 2d, arrived at Mr *Giff's*, where the major provided himself with a horse, and reach'd *Williamsburgh* on the 16th. The purport of the answer which he brought to governor *Dinwiddie*, was, that the Commandant would send his letter to them by *quais Duguisne*, that whatever he commanded should be done, and that in the mean time he was determined to keep his station.

Note, the reader may consult Mr *Pope's* map of *N. America*, for the situation of the several places above mentioned.